

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 3 - 5, 8 - 11, and 13 - 17 have been cancelled. Claims 18 - 34 have been added.

Claims 1 - 17 (cancelled).

18. (new) A method of adapting a link speed of a network controller in a computing system, comprising:

querying said computing system utilizing a periodic maintenance routine to determine if said local power supply has recently changed to a source of finite power capacity;

lowering said link speed for the network controller from a first speed to a second speed;

querying said computing system utilizing the periodic maintenance routine to determine if said local power supply recently changed back to an AC power source;

increasing said link speed for the network controller from the second speed to a third speed upon the local power supply having changed back to the AC power source, wherein the third speed is greater than the second speed.

19. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein said source of finite power capacity is selected from the group consisting of a battery and an Uninterruptible Power System (UPS).

20. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein the first speed is 100 Mbps, the second speed is 10 Mbps, and the third speed is 1,000 mbps.

21. (new) The method of claim 18, further including terminating the maintenance routine if said local power supply did not change back to the AC source.

22. (new) A method of adapting a link speed of a network controller in a computing system, comprising:
- querying said computing system utilizing a periodic maintenance routine to determine if said local power supply has recently changed to a source of finite power capacity;
- lowering said link speed for the network controller from a first speed to a second speed;
- querying said computing system utilizing the periodic maintenance routine to determine if said local power supply recently changed back to an AC power source;
- increasing said link speed for the network controller from the second speed to a third speed upon the local power supply having changed back to the AC power source, wherein the third speed is different than the first speed and the second speed.
23. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein said source of finite power capacity is selected from the group consisting of a battery and an Uninterruptible Power System (UPS).
24. (new) The method of claim 22, further including terminating the maintenance routine if said local power supply did not change back to the AC source.
25. (new) A method of adapting a link speed of a network controller in a computing system to maximize longevity of a local power supply, comprising:
- querying, by a network device driver, said computing system utilizing a periodic maintenance routine to determine upon said local power supply being recently changed to a source of finite power capacity; and
- lowering said link speed upon said computing system having recently changed to

said source of finite power capacity, wherein the querying of the computing system results in maximizing longevity of the source of finite power capacity while maintaining network communications.

26. (new) The method of claim 25, further including terminating the maintenance routine if said local power supply did not change back to the AC source.

27. (new) The method of claim 25, wherein said source of finite power capacity is selected from the group consisting of a battery and an Uninterruptible Power System (UPS).

28. (new) A link speed adjusting system, comprising:
a machine-readable storage medium; and
machine-readable program code, stored on the machine-readable storage medium, the machine-readable program code having instructions, which when executed cause the link speed adjusting system to:
query said computing system utilizing a periodic maintenance routine to determine if said local power supply has recently changed to a source of finite power capacity;
lower said link speed for the network controller from a first speed to a second speed;
query said computing system, utilizing the periodic maintenance routine, to determine if said local power supply recently changed back to an AC power source;
increase said link speed for the network controller from the second speed to a third speed upon the local power supply having recently changed back to the AC power source, wherein the third speed is greater than the second speed.

29. (new) The link speed adjusting system of claim 28, including instructions, which when executed, cause the computing system to terminating the maintenance routine if said local power supply did not change back to the AC source.

30. (new) The link speed adjusting system of claim 28, wherein said source of finite power capacity is selected from the group consisting of a battery and an Uninterruptible Power System (UPS).

31. (new) The link speed adjusting system of claim 28, wherein the first speed is 100 Mbps, the second speed is 10 Mbps, and the third speed is 1,000 Mbps.

32. (new) A computing system, comprising:
a machine-readable storage medium; and
machine-readable program code, stored on the machine-readable storage medium, the machine-readable program code having instructions, which when executed cause the computing system to:

query, by a network device driver, said computing system utilizing a periodic maintenance routine to determine if a local power supply has recently changed to a source of finite power capacity; and

lowering said link speed upon said computing system being recently changed to said source of finite power capacity, wherein the querying of the computing system results in maximizing longevity of the source of finite power capacity while maintaining network communications.

33. (new) The computing system of claim 32, including instructions which when executed cause the computing system to terminate the maintenance routine if said local power supply did not change back to the AC source.

34. (new) The system of claim 32, wherein said source of finite power capacity is selected from the group consisting of a battery and an Uninterruptible Power System (UPS).